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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/823,078	03/29/2001	Bal S. Sandhu	42390P8998	6999

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EXAMINER

LEE, MICHAEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

DATE MAILED: 02/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/823,078	Applicant(s) SANDHU ET AL.	
	Examiner M. Lee	Art Unit 2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-7 in the reply filed on 10/22/04 is acknowledged.
2. In 10/28/04, applicant also filed another election/restrictions response to current application; however, in view of the provided claim contents, they don't seem belong to the current application despite the similar application number being referenced. The client number in the response is 42P14234. Since the response does not belong to this case, they will be deleted from the file. The Office is not needed to respond to this communication.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pasqualini (6,492,855).

Regarding claim 1, Pasqualini discloses a flip flop device (Figure 2) having a complementary and symmetric outputs showing an inherently included core control logic

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to provide a data signal (210), and a FF1 214 and a differentiator (N1,N2), which meet the output drive logic as claimed.

Regarding claim 2, see col. 1, lines 53-56.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pasqualini (6,492,855) in view of the admitted prior art (Figure 1).

Regarding claim 3, Pasqualini does not specify the DFT logic as claimed. In Figure 1 of the admitted prior art, applicant shows a DFT logic having an internal receiver and a local DFT latch. By including the DFT logic, the overall performance of the system can be tested and evaluated (see col. 1, paragraph 007). Hence, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include a DFT logic into Pasqualini so that the flip flop latch and the differentiator can be evaluated and tested.

Regarding claim 4, in addition of above, the internal amplifier 130 of the admitted prior art could be any conventional amplifier since no particular amplifier is being specified. Knowing that a dual oxide sense amplifier has superior performance over conventional sense amplifiers in turn of operating speed and integration compactness, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention

was made to employ dual oxide sense amplifiers as the internal amplifier 130 of the admitted prior art.

7. Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pasqualini (6,492,855) in view of the admitted prior art (Figure 1), and further in view of Takahashi (6,037,824).

Regarding claim 5, in addition of above, Pasqualini or the admitted prior art does not specify the precharge logic as claimed. Takahashi, discloses a charge logic 211 for charging input lines of a sense amplifier 231. Since the internal amplifier 130 of the admitted prior art could be any conventional amplifier as stated above, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include the charge logic and sense amplifier 231 of Takahashi into Pasqualini to perform the well known functions as claimed. The sense amplifier 231 in Takahashi could be substituted with a dual oxide sense amplifier for the similar reason as stated above.

Regarding claim 6, see clock inputs iclkb0, iclkb1, and icklb3 of Takahashi.

Regarding claim 7, see col. 11, lines 6-10 in Takahashi.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Lee (6,483,766) shows a dual oxide sense amp.

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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Lee whose telephone number is 703-305-4743. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 9 to 6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller, can be reached on 703-305-4795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



M. Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2614